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IN THE CLAIMS

Attached is a listing of the claims in accordance with the revised format of amending. Claim 42-44 have been canceled and new claims 64-137 have been added.

Claims 1-41 (Previously Canceled)

Claims 42-44 (Currently Canceled)

Claims 45-63 (Previously Canceled)

64. (NEW) An orthopedic securing system for securing at least one elongate element to a tissue, the system comprising two or more nut sections that assemble to form a nut, the assembled nut comprising:

a nut surface that substantially contacts a tissue surface;

one or more element channels extending substantially along the radial axis of at least one of the two or more nut sections, the one or more element channels adapted to press the at least one elongate element;

an outer surface defining a periphery of the nut sections; and

a band disposed around the periphery.

65. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 64, wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least two elongate elements.

66. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 64, wherein at least a portion of the one or more element channels comprises a friction surface.

67. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 64 wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least one of:

a wire; and

a suture.

68. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 64, wherein the nut surface is juxtaposed against the tissue surface via the at least one elongate element.

69. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 64, wherein the band around the periphery of the assembled nut does not contact the tissue surface.

70. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 64, wherein the band around the periphery of the assembled nut contacts the tissue surface.

71. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 69, wherein the periphery height along the axis of the nut is greater than the height of the band along the axis of the nut.

72. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 69, wherein the periphery height along the axis of the nut is equal to or less than the height of the band along the axis of the nut.

73. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 71, wherein the periphery comprises at least two diameters and the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters.

74. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 73, wherein the one or more element channels maintain their position along the at least one elongate element when the band is moved from encircling the smaller diameter to encircling the larger diameter of the at least two diameters.

75. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 64, wherein:

at least a portion of the at least one elongate element comprises one or more radially disposed screw threads; and

at least a portion of the one or more element channels comprise one or more receptacles adapted to receive the one or more screw threads.

76. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 64, wherein the band comprises a cup defining a cavity having at least one smaller diameter and at least one larger diameter, wherein:

when the at least one smaller diameter encircles at least a portion of the periphery, the nut sections are held in assembly.

77. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 64, including one or more prongs extending from the assembled nut adapted to contact a tissue.

78. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 64, wherein at least a portion of the system comprises a material having:

a natural dissolution period such that during this period it substantially dissolves during in vivo implantation; and

an inducable dissolution period that differs from the natural dissolution period.

79. (NEW) An orthopedic fastening system for securing at least one elongate element to a tissue, the system comprising:

two or more nut sections that form a nut when assembled, the assembled nut comprising:

two or more inner surfaces adapted to clamp the at least one elongate element;

an outer surface defining a periphery; and

a band that substantially surrounds the periphery, the height of the radial axis of the band being less than height of the radial axis of the nut.

80. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least two elongate elements.

81. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein the height of the radial axis of the band is equal to the height of the radial axis of the nut.

82. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein the nut is juxtaposed against the tissue surface via the at least one elongate element.

83. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 79, including a compression surface adjoining at least one inner surface with the periphery, the compression surface being juxtaposed against the tissue surface in the assembled nut.

84. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein at least a portion of at least one of the two or more inner surfaces comprises a friction surface.

85. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least one of:

a wire; and

a suture.

86. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein the periphery comprises at least two diameters and the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters.

87. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 86, including at least one ledge disposed between the at least two diameters.

88. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 87, wherein the two or more inner surfaces maintain their position along the at least one elongate element when the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters.

89. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 87, wherein the compression surface remains juxtaposed against the tissue surface when the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters.

90. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein:

at least a portion of the at least one elongate element comprises one or more radially disposed screw threads; and

at least a portion of the two or more inner surfaces comprise one or more receptacles adapted to receive the one or more screw threads.

91. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein the band comprises a cup defining a cavity having at least one smaller diameter and at least one larger diameter, wherein:

when the at least one smaller diameter encircles at least a portion of the periphery, the nut sections are held in assembly.

92. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 79, including one or more prongs extending from the assembled nut adapted to contact a tissue.

93. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 79, wherein at least a portion of the system comprises a material having:

a natural dissolution period such that during this period it substantially dissolves during in vivo implantation; and

an inducable dissolution period that differs from the natural dissolution period.

94. (NEW) An orthopedic fastening system for securing at least one elongate element to a tissue having a surface, the system comprising:

at least one first nut section having a first clamping surface adapted to clamp the at least one elongate element and a first compression surface adjoining the first clamping surface;

at least one second nut section having a second clamping surface adapted to clamp the at least one elongate element and a second compression surface adjoining the second clamping surface;

at least a portion of at least one of the first and second compression surfaces being compressed against the tissue surface while the first and second clamping surfaces clamp the at least one elongate element.

95. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 94, wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least two elongate elements.

96. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 94, wherein at least a portion of the at least one first and at least one second compression surfaces comprises a friction surface.

97. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 94 wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least one of:

a wire; and

a suture.

98. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 94, wherein the periphery height along the axis of the nut is greater than the height of the band along the axis of the nut.

99. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 94, wherein the periphery height along the axis of the nut is equal to or less than the height of the band along the axis of the nut.

100. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 94 wherein the assembled nut comprises an outer surface defining a periphery.

101. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 100, and including a band disposed around the periphery in the assembled nut.

102. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 101, wherein the band in the assembled nut does not contact the tissue surface.

103. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 102, wherein the periphery comprises at least two diameters and the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters.

104. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 103, wherein the two or more inner surfaces maintain their position along the at least one elongate element when the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters.

105. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 94, wherein:

at least a portion of the at least one elongate element comprises one or more radially disposed screw threads; and

at least a portion of the two or more inner surfaces comprise one or more receptacles adapted to receive the one or more screw threads.

106. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 94, wherein the band comprises a cup defining a cavity having at least one smaller diameter and at least one larger diameter, wherein:

when the at least one smaller diameter encircles at least a portion of the periphery, the nut sections are held in assembly.

107. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 94, including one or more prongs extending from the assembled nut adapted to contact a tissue.

108. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 94, wherein at least a portion of the system comprises a material having:

a natural dissolution period such that during this period it substantially dissolves during in vivo implantation; and

an inducable dissolution period that differs from the natural dissolution period.

109. (NEW) An orthopedic fastening system for securing at least one elongate element to a tissue having a surface, the system comprising two or more nut sections that form a nut when assembled, the assembled nut comprising:

two or more inner surfaces adapted to clamp the at least one elongate element;

an outer surface defining a periphery of the nut sections;

a compression surface adjoining the inner and outer surfaces, the compression surface being juxtaposed against the tissue surface; and

a band disposed around the periphery.

110. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 109, wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least two elongate elements.

111. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 109, wherein the periphery height along the axis of the nut is greater than the height of the band along the axis of the nut.

112. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 109, wherein the periphery height along the axis of the nut is equal to or less than the height of the band along the axis of the nut.

113. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 109, wherein at least a portion of at least one of the two or more inner surfaces comprises a friction surface.

114. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 109, wherein the at least one elongate element comprises at least one of:

a wire; and

a suture.

115. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 114, wherein the nut is juxtaposed against the tissue surface via the at least one elongate element.

116. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 115, wherein the band around the periphery of the assembled nut does not contact the tissue surface.

117. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 115, wherein the band around the periphery of the assembled nut contacts the tissue surface.

118. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 116, wherein the periphery comprises at least two diameters and the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters in the assembled nut.

119. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 118, wherein the compression surface remains juxtaposed against the tissue surface when the band is disposed around one or more of the diameters in the assembled nut.

120. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 109, and including at least one juxtaposer that juxtaposes the two or more sections with respect to each other, the at least one juxtaposer comprising one or more of:

a) a hinge;

b) a tab;

c) an elastic band;

d) a cup; and

e) a ring.

121. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 109, wherein:

at least a portion of the at least one elongate element comprises one or more radially disposed screw threads; and

at least a portion of the two or more inner surfaces comprise one or more receptacles adapted to receive the one or more screw threads.

122. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 121, wherein the one or more screw threads comprise two or more screw thread surfaces:

at least one surface of the two or more surfaces having a long slope; and

at least one plane of the two or more surfaces having a short slope.

123. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 109, wherein the band comprises a cup defining a cavity having at least one smaller diameter and at least one larger diameter, wherein:

when the at least one smaller diameter encircles at least a portion of the periphery, the nut sections are held in assembly.

124. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 109, wherein the assembled nut includes one or more tool engaging means.

125. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 109, including one or more prongs extending from the assembled nut adapted to contact a tissue.

126. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 125, wherein the one or more prongs extend substantially along the at least one elongate element axis.

127. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 109, including a tissue retainer located along the at least one elongate element.

128. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 127, wherein the tissue retainer comprises one or more eyelets.

129. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 127, wherein the tissue retainer comprises at least one pin extending radially from the longitudinal axis of the at least one elongate element.

130. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 129, comprising one or more wings pivotally mounted on the at least one pin.

131. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 130, and including a pivot stop to stop pivoting of the wing, the stop being mounted on at least one of the:

at least one pin;

one or more wings; and

the at least one elongate element.

132. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 130, wherein at least a portion of the system comprises a material having:

a natural dissolution period such that during this period it substantially dissolves during in vivo implantation; and

an inducable dissolution period that differs from the natural dissolution period.

133. (NEW) The fastening system according to claim 130, comprising at least one passage in the at least one elongate element adapted for receiving fluid.

134. (NEW) A method for securing tissue with multiple sections radially arranged around an elongate element, the method comprising:

retaining a first portion of an elongate element in a tissue so that a second portion of the at least one elongate element extends beyond the tissue;

contacting the tissue with the multiple sections; and

pressing the multiple sections around the at least one elongate element second portion.

135. (NEW) A method for securing tissue with a nut comprising two or more sections, the method comprising:

positioning the two or more nut sections around an elongate element extending from a tissue surface;

contacting the tissue with the nut sections; and

encircling the nut sections with a band.

136. (NEW) A method according to claim 135, comprising at least partially dissolving over a first period of time in vivo, one or more of:

the at least one elongate element; and

the nut.

137. (NEW) A method according to claim 135, comprising inducing the at least partial dissolving to occur a period of time that differs from the first period.